

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 16, Number 3

All The News We Get, We Print!

Summer, 2005

"I like to move it! Move it!" [King Julian of the Lemurs, in Dreamworks' *Madagascar*]

A hot summer in many places, but still we cling to our fur! Oh well, at least the scalies are having a good time. Maybe you will too, hearing about some of these cool furry items coming your way...

Madagascar turned out to have some of the best legs of the summer – sometimes two, sometimes four! The CGI film stayed in the top ten at the box office for two months, and earned nearly \$200 million before dropping out. That makes it the #1 animated film from Dreamworks SKG that doesn't involve ogres and donkeys. Now, the big question remaining for the year is: Can *Wallace and Gromit* in *The Curse of the Were-Rabbit* or *Chicken Little* catch up to *Madagascar*, or even top it?

Speaking of *Wallace and Gromit*, be prepared for the onslaught of *Curse of the Were-Rabbit* merchandise, including several illustrated books, coming soon to a store near YOU as Dreamworks seeks to promote the first Nick Park film project since *Chicken Run* in 2000. While you're at it, keep your ear to the ground – You'll be hearing more in these pages in the future about some upcoming Dreamworks projects like *Flushed Away*, *Over the Hedge*, *Bee Movie*, and *Kung Fu Panda* (love that title!)

Speaking of upcoming projects, other studios in town aren't far behind. First up of course is *Valiant* from Vanguard Studios. The pigeons-in-World-War-II CGI film comes to American screens on August 30, after a successful run in the UK. Sony Pictures has trailers out for *Open Season* already, even more than a year before its fall 2006 premiere. The CGI forest-animal comedy is directed by *The Lion King*'s Roger Allers and *Monsters, Inc.*'s Jill Culton. Then in 2007 comes *Surf's Up*, a CGI film that sets out to document the previously unknown fact that penguins invented surfing. You heard it here. Voices for *Surf's Up* include Jeff Bridges, James Woods, and Michael McKean. Meanwhile, word is out that the folks over at Paramount and Nickelodeon have teamed up to produce a new CGI version of *Charlotte's Web*, featuring an amazing barnyard of voice actors: Dakota Fanning as Fern, Julia Roberts (as Charlotte), Robert Redford, Andre 3000, John Cleese, Kathy Bates, Thomas Haden Church, Steve Buscemi, Jennifer Garner, and Oprah Winfrey! And apparently Paramount and Nickelodeon are in a farm animal mood, so to speak: They're also producing *Barnyard*, a new CGI film (following the misadventures of a group of rebellious cows – with male voices!) from Steve Oedekerk (*Ace Ventura: Private Detective*). *Barnyard* has quite the voice cast too: Kevin James, Courteney Cox, Wanda Sykes, Danny Glover, Sam Elliott, and Andie MacDowell. Both of these farm animal adventures come your way in 2006.

Retro Toons Remade, Part 2: Classic Media have made a deal with Disney and Spyglass Entertainment to produce a new live-action-with-CGI movie based on the old *Underdog* animated TV series. In this new version, a pet beagle named Shoeshine (played by a real dog, no less) is granted superpowers by a strange lab accident. Look for the results in 2007. The same company is also producing a new direct-to-video CGI film based on the old Rankin/Bass *Easter TV special*, *Here Comes Peter Cottontail*. The original featured Vincent Price, the new version features Roger Moore.

Storms of controversy a'swirling around the folks at Warner Brothers these days, and all because of one show: *Loonatics Unleashed*, coming this fall to Kids' WB. The basic premise: In a dark future age, the descendants of famous Warner Brothers cartoon stars fight to save the world using their super powers and super-powered attitudes. Chief among them is Ace Bunny (a descendant of Bugs), aided by the likes of Rev Runner, Danger Duck, Tech E. Coyote, Lexi Bunny, and Slam the Tasmanian. All well and fine – trouble is, the very idea has set off fans of the classic Warner Brothers' toons – loudly debating the merits of this attempt to 'update' the familiar characters and portray them in new ways. With all the ruckus on the Internet, the WB has been struggling to keep up, putting out new character designs and plot outlines regularly, re-tooling the show. It'll be interesting to see how this all pans out when the show hits the airwaves.

Once again the August issue of *Animation Magazine* features the Pitch Party, where indie and upcoming artists get a chance to advertise their ideas for animated TV shows to a panel of animation experts by submitting 1/6-page ads for judging. And this year, not one but all three of the top-ranking entries involve funny animals – *Edgar and Kipp* by Leo Antolini (a mongoose and snake who somehow get along as roommates), *L'il Red Stitch* by Courtney Huddleston (an enchanted sewing kit on an enchanted farm), and *Cat vs. Fish* by Samuel T. Nelson (two characters who do not get along). But plenty of other furry entries (or partly furry) were there to be found, including: *Martial Animos* by Charles Wong, *Sweet Blossom* by Caroline Savard, *Kung Foo-ey*, starring Quacki Chen by Kat Caverly, *Catboy* by Keith Krail, *Maggies & Ripley* by Strange Type Studio, *Bear Bear & Messer* by Lin Tam, *Sage & Zorro* by Sergio Armendariz (a re-entry from last year), *Crazy Pets* by Triplelake Media, *Obnoxious Ox* and *Salacious Squirrel* (!) by Ed Sutherland, and *Tiki Cats* by Aimee Marsh. Check out the issue or visit the *Animation Magazine* web site to find out more about these shows and their creators, or to find out how to enter your own idea.

Rocko's Modern Life creator Joe Murray returns to the small screen with his newest invention, *Camp Lazlo*. Following the adventures of a crazed Brazilian monkey, a nervous Indian elephant, and a quite-likely-mad albino rhino at the Bean Scout

Summer Camp, this new 2D animated comedy series premieres this summer on Cartoon Network.

All six episodes of the short-lived UPN TV series *Game Over* – including one that never aired – have been released on DVD by Anchor Bay Entertainment. When the video game is over, the players inside go home to house and spouse – and kids. Lots of anthro back up characters in this CGI series, including Turbo, our heroes' foul-mouthed funny-animal... thing.

A & E Home Video has released seasons one and two of Cosgrove-Hall's classic *Danger Mouse* animated TV series on DVD. The collection includes 17 original episodes, plus the never-before-aired "lost" pilot episode.

Nelvana's cult animated film *Rock & Rule* comes to DVD this summer from Unearthed Films. In a post-nuke world of mutated dogs, cats, and rats, the aging rock star Mok plans to unleash a demon on the world that's forgotten him. He kidnaps the singer Angel, her voice being what he needs to finish the spell – but now, her band mates are out to take him down! *Rock & Rule* features songs by **Cheap Trick**, **Deborah Harry**, **Lou Reed**, and many others.

This August, look for the 3-DVD set of *Thundercats* Season One, Volume One from Warner Home Video. Join Lion-O and the cat people of Thunder as they seek to find a new home on a planet known as Earth Three – pursued by the evil Mumm-Ra and his mutant minions.

Coming around one more time, look for everyone's favorite little blue alien returning in *Lilo & Stitch 2: Stitch Has A Glitch*. Set in between the original *Lilo & Stitch* feature film and the previous DVD *Stitch, The Movie* (which lead directly into the plot of the *Lilo & Stitch* series), this new DVD release shows what happens when the reformed Experiment 626 (*Stitch*) develops a molecular mutation that brings out his worst behavior ever. All of the original *Lilo & Stitch* vocal cast return here, except one: Current bankable-child-star **Dakota Fanning** (she's in *everything*!) replaces **Daveigh Chase** as the voice of Lilo. The DVD comes to stores from Disney Home Video on August 30.

<From www.newsarama.com > Announced at [May's] Book Expo America, Slave Labor Graphics, home to titles such as *Johnny the Homicidal Maniac*, *Lenore*, *Milk and Cheese*, *My Monkey's Name is Jennifer*, and an equally eclectic group of creators; has landed the rights to four new Disney-based comics: *Haunted Mansion*, *Wonderland*, *Tron*, and *Gargoyles*. While not the first time Slave Labor has published books based on licensed properties, the deal marks the first time the company has partnered with such a mainstream licensor, one that virtually guarantees a rise in the company's profile. [*Haunted Mansion* will be a black & white anthology title (with covers and some interior art by *Lenore* creator **Roman Dirge**) while *Gargoyles*, *Tron*, and *Wonderland* will be full-color. Many *Gargoyles* fans are excited at this news, as it's also been revealed that series creator **Greg Weisman** will have a hand in scripting the new comic series. Look for *Haunted Mansion* this October, *Gargoyles* in December or January, and both *Wonderland* and *Tron* sometime in the spring of 2006 – ye ed-otter.]

Hip Flask, the reom hippo private eye, returns in *Hip Flask: Mystery City* by **Starkings** and **Ladronn**. A pulverized body sets Hip Flask on a trail that leads to the Eye of the Needle; and Nikken, creator of the Elephantmen, believes that his

imprisonment will soon end. The comic is available this month in full color from Active Images.

Lions, Tigers, and Bears has moved from Image Comics to Alias. The full-color comic miniseries by **Mike Bullock** and **Jack Lawrence** has been collected in a new trade paperback, on the shelves now. In fact, Alias have found themselves to be the home of quite a number of furry comic book titles now, including not only *Lions, Tigers, and Bears* and *Lethal Instinct* (reviewed in these pages before), but *Pakkins Land*, *Lullaby*, *The Dreamland Chronicles*, *Gimoles*, and of course *Monkey in a Wagon vs. Lemur on a Big Wheel*. Yes, you read that right. Two cute furry animals use their favorite vehicles – and everything else they can get their paws on – to try and destroy each other... and of course, mostly wind up destroying the neighborhood. Full color comic mayhem brought to you quarterly by **Kenneth Lillie-Paetz** and **Chriss Moreno**. *Gimoles* deserves special mention too. This new full-color fantasy series from L, T, & B creator **Mike Bullock** (along with **Theo Bain**) follows the adventures of a group of magical elf-like beings as they try to wrestle time back from the Lord of Winter. Furry characters abound. Also look for the full-color trade paperback collections of *Lullaby* (*Wisdom Seeker Volume 1*) and *The Imaginaries* (*Lost and Found*).

From Oni Press comes the first issue of *Banana Sundays*, a new black & white comic by **Root Nibot** and **Colleen Coover**. This from *Previews* Magazine: "Kirby Steinberg is having a bit of trouble fitting into her new school... this time the new kid also happens to be the guardian for three monkeys that have all gained the power of speech."

MU Press brings us the premier issue of *Dr. Minkenstein*, a very adults-only black & white comic by **Chris Lightfoot**, **Phil Foglio**, and **S. S. Crompton**. The mad furry doctor has created a monster – that takes more than a little interest in her, and her feline assistant!

Speaking of black & white adult furry comics, several new titles of the all-male variety have recently come out (no pun) from Rabbit Valley under the Spoo Presents imprint. *Service with a Smile* and *Big Bad Wolf Club* are back-to-back titles from **Kaput** and **Quel**, respectively. *Coyote River* is a romantic tale of modern western romance, written and illustrated by **Chris McKinley** (*Associated Student Bodies*). And finally they present another issue of *Captain Pulsar's Rocketship Rodents* by **Trejaan** and **Werepuppy**, back-to-back with a *Professor Chonofur* adventure comic. Visit <http://store.rabbitvalley.org/index.html> to find out more.

New from our friends at Radio Comic: Time for another edition of *Hit the Beach* for 2005, with black & white pin-ups of beachside funny animals brought to you by **Joe Rosales**, **Megan Giles**, **TRUMP**, **Terrie Smith**, **Phil Morrissey**, **John Barrett**, **Christina Hanson**, **DAQ**, **Matt Davis**, **Eddie Perkins**, **Shon Howell**, and more. Meanwhile, look for the *Ebin* and *May* Volume 1: *Ebin's Exile* trade paperback by **Christina Hanson** and **Ed Garcia**. Collecting the first part of the black & white fantasy adventure series from the pages of *Furrough*.

Werewolves are big in comics this summer. Besides the afore-mentioned *Lethal Instinct*, we have *Full Moon Fever* from AIT/Planet Lar. A repair crew visiting a lunar base discovers its mysterious empty – except for an army of werewolves! Black & white horror adventure in trade paperback, brought to you by **Joe Casey**, **Caleb Gerard**,

and **Damen Couceiro**. And then there's *Curse of the Blood Clan* by **Mark Kidwell**, **Mojo**, and **12:21**, where a pack of vicious werewolves haunts the streets of New York City. It's available in full color from Dead Dog Comics (!). And finally there's *Night* from Jester Press, where a group of werewolves might be the culprits behind a rash of gangland murders across the nation. Brought to you in black & white by **Troy Hasbrouk** and **Buddy Prince**.

Shanda Fantasy Arts presents *Richard Thatcher's Morphing Period Journal*, featuring new black & white comic stories in the "Morphing Period" saga by **Carla Speed McNeil**, **Fred Perry**, and of course **Richard Thatcher**. When a mysterious virus causes many people to become anthropomorphic animals, more than people's shape changes... Also from Shanda, look for the *Medics: Code 3 Special* (in black & white) by **Jon C. Crusoe** and **Jerry Loomis**. The strange adventures of a group of funny animal paramedics, many of their mishaps based on real-life folks in EMS.

Nerve Bomb is the name chosen by **James Baker**, a self-published comics creator in Northern California. Checking out his web site, one finds several comics with definite furry content, including *Rocket Rabbit*, *Kat & Telly*, *Cosmo*, *Helikat*, and *Troppo Drongos*. Visit www.nervebomb.com to see what we mean.

Mike Bocianowski's black & white fantasy/humor/adventure comic book series *Yets* (drawing favorable comparisons to both *Pogo* and *Bone*) is now available in trade paperback form, published by Comic Library International. "Join this amazing tale of adventure and friendship as the daredevil Guinea Pig, Perry, and a Chihuahua, Spec, travel out to discover Wild Dragons." On the way, they meet the mysterious creatures they call Yets...

Found at San Diego Comic Con: *Cattle Capers*, a humorous mystery novel written and illustrated by **Dawn Kravagna** (and published by Aventine Press). Master detective Adam Steer partners up with Chief of Police Pork and the cops of Precinct 13 1/2 to solve the kidnapping of a newspaper publisher, the ostrich Madam Griselda Portensky. Visit Dawn at www.pun-and-oink.com to find out about this new detective series.

Animator **Mark Koetsier** has written and illustrated a new children's adventure book called *Jet Pack Benny*. When a deadly owl carries off his father, Benny (a young squirrel) determines that he must learn to fly. When the kid acquires a hi-tech jet pack – look out! Published (in full color) by Stuart Ng Books, visit www.jetpackbenny.com for more details.

Comic book nostalgia from Archie Comics. The *Sonic the Hedgehog: Beginnings* trade paperback collects issues 0–3 of the original full-color comic book (by **Michael Gallagher**, **Scott Shaw!**, and **Dave Manak**), featuring the first appearances of Sonic, Tails, Princess Sally, and others. Meanwhile, moving on to new stuff, Archie presents the brand new full-color comic series *Sonic X* in September, featuring the work of **Joe Edkin** and **Tim Smith**.

From book, to anime – to book! *Baron the Cat Returns* is a graphic novel manga based on the anime film from **Hiyao Miyazaki's** Studio Ghibli. Written and drawn by **Aoi Hiragi**, the story follows what happens when an unhappy young teen saves a cat's life – and winds up drawing the unwanted attention of the King of Cats! Can the dapper Baron get her

out of this mess? Available at comic shops and Japanese book importers.

Steve Miller, the editor of *Freaks! How to Draw Fantastic Fantasy Creatures*, returns as the editor of *ThunderLizards! Drawing Fantastic Dinosaurs*. Covering more than 50 dinosaurs, this softcover how-to-book features tips from a variety of artists. It's out now from Watson-Guptill Publications. Looking for more drawing instruction? Check out *Draw the Looney Tunes: The Warner Bros. Character Design Manual* by **Frank Espinosa**, out now in hardcover from Chronicle Books.

Antarctic Press presents the *Mighty Tiny Pocket Manga Trade Paperback*. In this famous black & white comic book story by **Ben Dunn**, rats and mice have evolved their own society – and their own political intrigues!

The Ursa Major Award-winning anthology *Best in Show – 15 Years of Outstanding Furry Fiction* (edited by **Fred Patten**) will be re-released by iBooks in February of 2006, sporting a new title: *Furry! The Best Anthropomorphic Fiction Ever!* Featuring short stories by **Lawrence Watt-Evans**, **Watts Martin**, **Michael H. Payne**, **Gene Breshears**, **Brook Hoagland**, **Mel White**, **Phil Geusz**, and many others.

More furry collection books, this time from Fantagraphics. *Rocky: The One and Only* brings together the first year of the wildly popular (in Sweden and other parts of Europe) black & white funny animal comic strip by **Martin Kellerman**. The strip follows the travails of a young canine cartoonist and his "loser friends and neurotic girlfriends". For fans of much more historic furry animals, Fantagraphics presents *Krazy & Ignatz 1935 – 1936: A Wild Warmth of Chromatic Gravy* (we don't make these things up, folks). Collecting the Sunday *Krazy Kat* strips from those two years, this full-color (that's rare) collection of the famous strips by **George Herman** is on the shelves now.

The first five issues of the acclaimed black & white science fiction comic series *Runners* by **Sean Wang** have been collected into the *Runners: Bad Goods* trade paperback by Serve Man Press. Reluctant smuggler Roka Nostaco (a human) and his ragtag crew of alien companions struggle to survive with their business – and their skins – intact!

In September, DC Comics presents the new *Kamandi Archives Volume 1* in hardcover, collecting the original issues #1 – #10 of the famous full-color science fiction comic series *Kamandi: Last Boy on Earth*, written and illustrated by **Jack Kirby** (with assistance **Mike Royer**). Kamandi, one of the only human survivors of the Great Disaster, struggles to survive on an Earth populated with mutant, talking animals of all sorts.

Amaze Ink and Slave Labor Graphics present *Jet Pack Pets*, a new full-color trade paperback by **Michael Stewart** and **Garry Black**. When disaster strikes Sky City, and the town's elected officials can't cope, it's up to their super-powered pets to take on the job – the mayor's pooch, the police captain's cat, and the fire chief's turtle. This new collection features character bios and pin-up art as well.

Tokyo Pop presents the new digest-sized manga of *Kingdom Hearts*, the wildly popular video game for the Playstation 2. Young Sora, a human boy transported to a magical realm, meets up with Captain Goofy and the court sorcerer, Donald Duck, both on a quest to save King Mickey from evil forces.

Along the way, they're meet many other famous faces from Disney Animation. All of this in anticipation of the new *Kingdom Hearts* 2 game, which will ship out before the end of the year.

Heart of Courage is a new anthropomorphic fantasy novel by **Joseph Zdenek**, the first part of the planned *Narsic War* series. From Amazon.com: "The island of Tandori has seen more war than peace for as long as anyone can remember. A battleground for the foreign canine and feline peoples of Everlet and Hohleran, Tandori is also home to an indigenous race of lizards that remains neutral in the ancient conflict, but hardly dormant. The ever-changing tides of war soon engulf Rhomand, a young canine officer who finds himself engaged in a battle deep in enemy territory, fighting both for his own life and the life of his childhood friend, Ayana." A self-published title, you can find out more about the book at Joseph's web site, www.zdenekbooks.com.

New books of furry interest hitting the shelves (well, at least the Internet) from Sofawolf Press: The various stories, graphics, and poetry in the 3rd issue of the erotic anthology *Heat* are centered around a theme of food and cooking this time, with offerings from the likes of **Kyell Gold**, **Jonas**, **Leo Magna**, **Sheela Ardrian**, **Bahumat**, **AlumaSquirrel**, **Adam Wan**, **Scout McIntyger**, and **Eric Hunter**. *Black Iron* is illustrated novel set in the Iron Claw™ universe. It's the second such book from **Ted MacKinnon**, this time illustrated by **Christopher Goodwin**. Plus there's *Digger*, Volume 1, collecting the first two chapters of the popular humorous fantasy web comic written and illustrated by **Ursula Vernon**. Here's what happens when a very practical wombat gets stuck in a fantasy adventure she wants nothing to do with. In the you-might-have-missed-them category, don't forget to check out *Volle* (an adult furry fantasy novel) by **Kyell Gold**, illustrated by **Sara Palmer** and *Why Coyotes Howl* (an anthology of short stories by furry/fantasy/science fiction author **Watts Martin**). Information on all these books can be found at www.sofawolf.com.

Brand new for the PS2 game system is *The Legend of Kay* from Neon Studios. For generations the peaceful cats have lived on the mythical island Peng-Lai in the Chinese sea, together with many other animals. Kay, the cat hero of this game, is an apprentice in martial arts. He was practicing in his masters Dojo when emperor Shun king of the mighty gorillas - attacked his home and dislodged the cat township. On a quest to protect his fellows, Kay begins an amazing journey that takes him across the vast island of Peng-Lai. Gradually, he begins to unravel the incredible secret that lies hidden in the volcano fortress of emperor Shun...

Tell Tale Games has produced an interactive CGI game based on **Jeff Smith's** award-winning comic *Bone*. To find out more, and view graphics and trailers from the game, visit www.bonegame.telltalegames.com.

Some interesting animal-oriented card games are coming out. In *Scavenger Hunt* from Goodman Games, ravenous predators of the savannah try to out-sneak, outwit, and out-fight each other in a bloody battle to acquire the most animal carcasses. *Eco Fluxx* from Looney Labs is a new edition of the *Fluxx* game series, where players get to change the participants in an ecosystem's food chain and watch the results. Finally, Momentum Force Game Systems brings out *Noah's Quest*, a card game where the players attempt to get all the animals on board Noah's ark before the flood hits - and to keep them all alive through the trip!

Among anime fans, cloth hats with animal ears and faces have exploded in popularity - some of them connected to various shows, and some of them simply original designs. Boshi-Basik in the unusual name of a manufacturer of such cloth hats. Visit them on-line at <http://basik.net> to see their designs.

< Found on line: > Levy Restaurants is reaching all the way back to the Cretaceous period for its next dining concept. The Chicago-based restaurant operator has teamed up with the founder of the Rainforest Cafe to launch T-Rex, a chain of dinosaur-themed restaurants replete with robotic dinosaurs, a fossil dig site, a paleontology lab and an ice cave. Levy and its partner, Minnesota-based Schussler Creative Inc., plan to roll out the concept in as many as eight tourist destinations. The first restaurant will open early next year near a NASCAR racetrack in Kansas City, Mo. Another will open in 2008 near the Mohegan Sun casino near Norwich, Conn.

Obituaries

<From MSNbc, May 9, 2005 > **Joe Grant**, a legendary Disney artist who designed the Queen/Witch in *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarfs*, died of a heart attack while doing what he loved most, drawing, the Walt Disney Co. said Monday. Grant, 96, died at his home in the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale, last Friday while sitting at his drawing board. He is best known for helping create Disney characters of old. He co-wrote *Dumbo*, about the elephant with ears so big he could fly, and Grant conceived of *Lady and the Tramp*, about two dogs from different backgrounds who fall in love. But even at his advanced age, Grant still worked four days each week at the film studio's animation division, and he helped conceive the recent Oscar nominee for animated short film, *Lorenzo*, which was directed by Mike Gabriel. "Despite his extraordinary accomplishments, Joe never lived in the past," said film critic Leonard Maltin. "He was always on top of current films and trends and was the biggest cheerleader for young talent that you could imagine." Grant joined Disney in 1933. He left in 1949 when his "Character Model" department was disbanded, and he went on to start several successful ventures including a ceramics studio and greeting card company. After 40 years away, Grant returned in 1989 to consult on Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

< From CBC, June 27, 2005 > The two actors who provided the voices of Tigger and Piglet in the *Winnie the Pooh* films have died within a day of each other. **Paul Winchell**, the voice of Tigger, died Friday morning in his sleep at his home in California. **John Fiedler**, the voice of Piglet, passed away on Saturday. Winchell had a long career as a master ventriloquist, inventor and children's TV host, but he may be best known for his work as the friendly tiger in the animated versions of A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* books. Winchell, who gave Tigger the trademark lisp, voiced him from 1968 to 1999. The 82-year-old was also the voice of other animated characters for Disney and Hanna-Barbera, including the character of Gargamel in *The Smurfs*. He brought dummies Jerry Mahoney and Knucklehead Smiff to life on television. Winchell also held 30 patents, including one for an artificial heart, a disposable razor and a flameless cigarette lighter. He donated his early artificial heart to the University of Utah for research. Dr. Robert Jarvik and other researchers at the university went on to construct the first artificial heart implanted into humans. John Fiedler began his stage career in New York after serving in the Navy during the Second World War. He was a supporting actor, performing alongside the likes of Sidney Poitier in *A*

Raisin in the Sun on Broadway, John Wayne in Hollywood and Bob Newhart on television. Fiedler appeared in films such as *12 Angry Men*, *The Odd Couple*, *True Grit* and *Sharkey's Machine*. He was a cast member on the TV shows *Buffalo Bill* and *The Bob Newhart Show*. His other voice credits include: Sexton Mouse in *Robin Hood*, Deacon Owl in *The Rescuers*, and the Porcupine in *The Fox and the Hound*. Fiedler's naturally high-pitched voice won him the role of the anxiety-ridden Piglet in 1968. He continued in the role throughout his life, playing in the recently released *Pooh's Heffalump Movie*.

< From Fur & Feathers: >

Honoring "The House of Mouse" with *The Art of Walt Disney Stamps Collecting Series*, offered from our U.S. Postal Service, celebrating years of entertaining the young and the young at heart by releasing commemorative stamps of classic and modern Disney cartoon superstars. For any furry fan, make a stamp-ede for your local post office. Or, stalk your mouse pad and surf the web to <http://shop.usps.com> for more details.

"Cute and Cuddly, Boys... Cute and Cuddly..." [The Skipper, leader of the penguins, in Dreamworks' *Madagascar*]

Furry Stuff has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurcences 0 - 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more - soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by Eric Schwartz from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by Rachael Cawley from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by Ken Sample from CF10. Plus, a very few of Mitch Beiro's colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the *ConFurence Eight - Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine - Furries in Love* highlights videos, and the special combination video from CF5 (*Furries in Space!*) and CF6 (*Magic and Transformation*). Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurcences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

Keep it Fresh! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my Subscription to *In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even more of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep four times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping \$5.00 for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the "zine community." It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: *In-Fur-Nation*, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958. What, don't want more dead trees in your mailbox? Fine! Let us know and we'll e-mail you your issues of *In-Fur-Nation* as .pdf files, right to your inbox.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember:

There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an alternate: Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes too!** Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to Rod O'Reilly at rdos64@hotmail.com.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in *In-Fur-Nation* come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to rdos64@hotmail.com.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

The Ursa Major Awards (for the Best in Anthropomorphic in 2004)

This past July, the annual Ursa Major Awards were presented at Anthrocon 2005 in Philadelphia, PA. More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursa Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award ® presented by the World Science Fiction Society, mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth. The Ursa Majors are administered by a dedicated group of fans, and presented by the Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Association (ALAA). Nominations for the awards are open to the public, and later ballots are made available by the ALAA. The physical award plaque was designed by Heather Bruton.

Eligibility in ten categories is for works featuring intelligent and/or talking animals first published during the calendar year in question (in this case, January through December of 2004). This can include new compilations of older works, such as a new collection of previously published separate works. The winners were chosen by popular vote from five finalists in each category.

And, the Ursula Major winners for 2004 were:

- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture** – *Shrek 2* (Dreamworks Animation, released in May of 2004)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Dramatic Short Work or Series** – *Father of the Pride* (DreamWorks SKG & Imagi International Holdings)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Novel** – *Never Again A Man*, by **Charles Matthias** (The Matthias Zone website)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Short Story** – “*Felicia and the Tailcutter’s Curse*”, by **Charles P. A. Melville** (CafePress)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work** – *The Art of Usagi Yojimbo* by **Stan Sakai** (Dark Horse Books)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book** – *Usagi Yojimbo*, by **Stan Sakai** (Dark Horse, monthly comic book)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip** – *Faux Pas*, by **Robert & Margaret Carspecken** (on-line daily comic strip)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine** – *Tails of the Tai Pan Universe* (Published by **Gene Bresears** & others)
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration** – **Kacey Maltzman** for the front cover of *Fur Plus #22*
- 2 **Best Anthropomorphic Game** – *Sly 2: Band of Thieves* (designed by Sucker Punch Productions and published by Sony Computer Entertainment)

Congratulations to each of the winners! **Kacey Maltzman** (now **Kacey Miyagami**) was on hand to accept her award at Anthrocon on Sunday afternoon, and the rest of the winners were presented their awards later. From the Ursula Major Awards staff: Our thanks to the many folks who helped to set up the awards, and our special thanks to everyone who sent in nominations or voted! Tell your friends to do the same!

To find out more about the Ursula Major Awards, including how to make recommendations and nominations, visit www.ursulamajorawards.org. Or, write to: The Ursula Major Awards, c/o Rod O’Riley, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958 to send recommendations or request more information. Official nominations will open in January, 2005. Keep your eyes on the next issue of *In-Fur-Nation* for more about the Ursula Major Awards for 2005!

And here’s a look at Coming Attractions...

Furry (and sorta-furry) Conventions coming your way this summer!

Western PA Furry Weekend

October 7 – 9, 2005

The Western Pennsylvania Fall Furry Weekend is an anthropomorphic (or “furry”) gathering located in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan area. This event is organized and coordinated by local furies and is now celebrating it’s sixth year. We have events and activities planned for all three days, including the Friday Furry Social, the Fall Fur-b-que on Saturday, and Furry Breakfast at Panera Bread plus an outing to the Pittsburgh Zoo followed by dinner at Cici’s Pizza Buffet on Sunday.

The event hotel is the Comfort Inn Pittsburgh North, 2801 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238. Western PA Fall Furry Weekend has secured a block of 10 non-smoking, double-queen rooms for both Friday night October 7th and Saturday night October 8th at a flat rate of \$59/night, plus taxes, for up to four guests. To reserve a room, call the Comfort Inn directly at (412) 828-9400. When you call you must tell the agent at the desk that you are with “Glen Rockhill’s group” to get this room rate.

At-the-Door Registration Rates – Friday’s Furry Social, October 7th, 2005 @ 6:30PM: Registration at the door is \$5.00. Saturday’s Fall Fur-b-que, October 8th, 2005 @ 2:00PM: Registration at the event is \$15.00. Not included with your registration to the Fall Furry Weekend are any costs associated with Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday, the Furry Breakfast at Panera Bread, parking fees, and admission to Sunday’s events.

Visit www.swiftsden.net/events/furry/wpaffw.htm for all the details.

Conifur Northwest 2005

The Dates: October 21 – 23, 2005

The Place: SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, SeaTac, Washington
The Guests: **David Hopkins**, Artist, creator of *Jack*

Hotel Info:

Official Website: <http://www.seattle-downtown.com/hotels/radisson.html>

Telephone: (800) 325-3535

The 1-800 number for hotel reservations appears to be causing confusion from the hotel’s reservation line. You should be able to make your reservations there by mentioning Conifur, but people are running into trouble. To be safe, call the local hotel number instead at: (206) 244-6000.

A special rate has been arranged for Conifur Northwest members of only \$89.00 a night. What’s even better is that rate is available for up to three days before and after the convention dates allowing you to visit the Pacific Northwest without feeling rushed. We have listened to our members and this hotel does indeed have a pool, and the location literally next to the SeaTac International Airport means quick and easy access. Local food is affordable and as close or as far as you care to walk.

Registration:

Pre-Registered: **\$40.00**

At The Door 3-Day: **\$45.00**

Non-Attending: **\$15.00**

Sponsors: **\$100.00+**

Mail-in Registration can be sent to: Conifur Northwest, Attn: Registration Dept, 13619 Mukileto Speedway, PMB 172, Lynnwood, WA 98037-1606. Or, you can register on-line at www.conifur.org.

Oklacon 2005

Celebrating "The Inner Animal". Special Guests for 2005 include **Jakebe** (performer and comedian), **Equus** (artist), and **Sub-Level 3** (musical guests).

The convention will be held Halloween Weekend (October 27-30, 2005) at the Roman Nose State Park near Watonga, Oklahoma. Several types of accommodation are found there, but check the web site for what's available where and when. Memberships are available for **\$26.00** (Patron and Sponsor memberships are available too!).

We are getting back to our roots. Most of Oklacon will be held up at or close to the Turkey Roost. This will make it easier and less of a hassle to get to panels and events. Because of this however, there will be no Oklacon sponsored computer room. Feel free to bring your computer if you wish, but since space is at such a premium at the turkey roost, it will be reserved for socializing, eating and dancing. Artists and Safari Sanctuary! There will be no space or internet connection made available by us. This is, after all, more of a nature and camping oriented convention.

Check out www.oklacon.com for more information!

FurFright

FurFright is an Anthropomorphic Halloween Convention taking place October 28, 29, and 30, 2005 at the Sheraton Bradley Hotel in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. FurFright is a 3-day con with a full schedule of programming Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Discounted room rates are good Wednesday (Oct 26th) thru Tuesday (Nov 1st), so arrive a bit early and stay late so you don't miss a moment of the con!

Once again, the hotel is the Sheraton Bradley International Airport, 1 Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, CT 06096. Phone numbers are (860) 627-5311 or (877) 422-5311 (toll free). Their web site is www.sheratonbradley.com. The room rate is **\$89.00** per night for single/double/triple/quad occupancy. Call the hotel directly to reserve a room. Mention that your reservation is part of a group and the group's name is "FurFright" (you will most likely need to spell it for them) to get our discounted room rate. DO NOT RESERVE YOUR ROOM ONLINE or you will be unable to get our special rate.

FurFright attendees can register at the Monster (**\$25.00** until September 30, **\$30.00** at the door), Zombie (**\$45.00** or more), or FrankenSponsor levels (**\$80.00** or more). Visit their web site at www.furfright.org to register on-line, or write to them at FurFright 2005, P.O. Box 264, Durham CT 06422-0264.



Howloween 2005

October 29, 2005
Coquitlam, British Columbia

Best Western Convention Center
319 North Rd.
Coquitlam, BC
Canada, V3K 3V8
(604) 931-9011
Rooms are **\$99CDN** per night (single bed) and **\$109CDN** per night (two beds).

Howloween is a furmeet for folks in Western Canada and the US - a relaxing place for anthropomorphic art, costuming, performing and animation enthusiasts from Western Canada and beyond to meet up for a couple of days and have some fun! Running all day Saturday and with some 'Fursuit Bowling' on Sunday (email info@howloween.org) - this year's Howloween is going to be a blast! It's a great chance to run around in your costume, meet more of the locals and just have fun!

Registration is **\$20CDN** Pre-Registration, which includes a t-shirt (before October 10), and **\$20CDN** at the door, which does not include a t-shirt. More information can be found at www.howloween.org, or write to them at: Howloween, 714 Evans Place, Port Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3B 7M3.

Midwest FurFest

This year's Midwest FurFest will take place November 18 - 20, 2005, once again at The Hyatt Regency Woodfield (1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173 - Telephone (847) 605-1234). Rooms are available for **\$89.00** per night.

The FurFest Guests of Honor this year are **Kenket** (Artist and Illustrator), **Gene Breshears** (Editor of *Tales of the Tai Pan Universe*), and **Tincrash** (Artist, *Furry Ninja High School*).

Pre-Registration is: **\$30.00** for Full Membership until September 30, 2005
\$100.00 for Sponsorship which includes meal with Guests of Honor and T-shirt, plus more!
\$40.00 after September 30, 2005, and at the door.

Please make checks payable to "Midwest FurFest". Mail Registration with payment to: **Midwest Furry Fandom, P.O. Box 3561, Urbana, IL 61803**. Or, check out their web site at www.furfest.org for information on guests, events, activities, and more!

Well, that's all for now - and that's a lot! Here's hoping we'll get to see you again, and soon. But it's up to you! Keep up your subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* and keep up with the world of Furry Fandom! And don't forget to check out our new site at www.infurnation.com. See you! [Rod O'Leary, your ed-otter]



PLEASE RECYCLE

We're tellin' you...



<Image c. 2005, Dreamworks>

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